

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-36 are all the claims pending in the Application. Of these: (1) claims 23-32 are allowed; (2) claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 16, 17, 20 and 21 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form; and (3) claims 1-5, 8, 9, 12-15, 18, 19, 22 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Flick* (US 6,512,465; hereinafter "*Flick*").

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 23-32 are allowed, and that claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 16, 17, 20 and 21 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner hold in abeyance such rewriting until the Examiner has had an opportunity to reconsider (and withdraw) the prior art rejection of the other claims.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-5, 8, 9, 12-15, 18, 19, 22 and 33-36 in view of *Flick*, **Applicants respectfully that this rejection is improper on its face because *Flick* is not prior art to this Application.** This fact was previously pointed out to the Examiner in the February 2, 2005 *Response*, in which Applicants perfected this Application's claim to priority, and specifically removed *Flick* as a reference against the pending claims.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner properly review the previous papers in this Application, and not issue any further rejections that are clearly improper, as such rejections unfairly delay this Application from issuing.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-36 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1-36.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111  
U.S. Application No. 09/812,565

Attorney Docket No. Q63506

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy P. Cremen  
Registration No. 50,855

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 13, 2006